



MS VFC Vaccine Bulletin #1

February 14, 2002

DTaP - Limited Supply. A recent questionnaire faxed to VFC providers indicates that approximately 40% of the VFC Providers have not deferred the 4th and 5th dose of DTaP as recommended by the ACIP. Please understand, the supply in the MSDH Pharmacy is limited to only enough vaccine to immunize children for the first, second and third dose of DTaP. You may feel that you currently have inventory to ignore this recommendation, but we may not be able to fill your next order. This is of great concern! There is a potential that the limited supply will not be sufficient for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd doses if you do not begin deferring immediately. If vaccine doses are deferred, the Certificate of Immunization Compliance form should be completed by marking the box “*Incomplete - next immunization is due __/__/__*” and date it for 6 months from the current date.

DTaP/Hib (TriHIBit) - This vaccine can be used as an alternative for DTaP vaccine, but should only be used for the 4th dose of DTaP and the booster dose of Hib. The supply of it is also limited. The providers who requested it in their response to the last fax should be receiving some DTaP/Hib next week. Please make sure you review the recommendations for this vaccine, if you have not been previously using it in your clinic.

Varicella Vaccine - There is an approximately 60 day back-order on all varicella orders. The new requirement for all children 18 months and older in childcare and for all school enterers begins this school year (2002-2003). If a child has a history of chickenpox, varicella vaccine is not required. If the child does not have a history of chickenpox and you have to defer varicella vaccine, you should complete the Certificate of Immunization Compliance Form by the following method: Check the box that states “*Incomplete - next immunization is due __/__/__*” and date it for 6 months from the current date. Please mark only this box on the form. It is anticipated that the supply of varicella vaccine should increase prior to the beginning of the school year.

COMVAX - This vaccine is also in short supply. The MSDH Pharmacy currently has no inventory of COMVAX. We have made sure that we placed larger orders for the single antigen HEP B and Hib Products. If you have depleted all your COMVAX inventory, please make sure you use the single antigen products.

Shortage in some of these vaccines will necessitate schedule changes based on implementation of single antigen products. These are nation-wide shortages in all of the vaccines listed above. Please make sure you do the following to ensure our children get the vaccine they need as soon as it is available.

- Keep a file of all the children whose vaccines you defer.
- Only order a month's supply of vaccine for your VFC eligible children.

We will keep you informed of our supply of all vaccines. If you have questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 601-576-7751 or 1-800-634-9251.



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